

AMENDMENT

Please replace the currently pending claims with the following claims:

1. (Amended) A process for the production of a β -lactam, comprising the steps of:
a) fermenting on an industrial scale a microbial strain that produces a β -lactam in a fermentation medium which is a chemically defined medium consisting of chemically defined constituents, and

b) recovering the β -lactam from the fermentation medium.

2. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the chemically defined medium further contains an amount of a complex carbon and/or nitrogen source which is less than 10% of the total C and/or N in the medium.

3. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the chemically defined constituents comprise a carbon source selected from the group consisting of glucose, lactose, fructose, sucrose, a maltodextrin, starch inulin, glycerol, a vegetable oil, a hydrocarbon, an alcohol, an organic acid, and/or a nitrogen source selected from the group consisting of urea, ammonia, nitrate, an ammonium salt and an amino acid.

4. The process of claim 3, wherein the carbon source is glucose and the nitrogen source is ammonia and/or an ammonium salt.

5. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said fermenting is via a batch, a repeated batch, a fed-batch, a repeated fed-batch or a continuous fermentation process.

6. (Amended) The process of claim 5, wherein fermenting is via a fed-batch process.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein a carbon and/or a nitrogen source is fed to the process.

8. The process of claim 7, wherein the carbon source is glucose and the nitrogen source is ammonia and/or an ammonium salt.

Please cancel claims 9-14.

a³ 15. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the microbial strain is a filamentous microbial strain.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein the filamentous strain is a fungus.

Please cancel claims 17-18.

19. The process of claim 16, wherein the fungus is a *Penicillium* strain.

a⁴ 20. (Amended) The process of claim 19, wherein the fungus is *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

Please cancel claims 21-35.

Please add the following claims:

a⁵ 36. (New) The process of claim 19 wherein the β -lactam is penicillin V.

37. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the β -lactam is adipoyl-7-ADCA.